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THE KANSAS CITY

MEDICAL JOURNAL.

APRIL, 1875.

Ligature of the Femoral Artery: Death from Clot in the Pulmonary Artery.

By J. D. GRIFFITH, M. D., Kansas City.

The following case occurred in Bellevue Hospital, New York, in 1873, while I was one of the Resident Surgeons of the Hospital, and was under my exclusive control.

F. B—. Age 52. An Irishman by birth. Occupation, carpenter. Family history good. Patient, when 14 years of age, had typhoid fever; at 20 years of age had a Hunterian chancre; this was followed by secondary and tertiary symptoms. Had gonorrhoea several times; no stricture.

On August 1st received a wound of right thigh, being inflicted by a ball from a small Smith & Wesson pistol, entering at about the junction of the lower and middle third of the anterior surface, passing through the muscles and lodging just beneath the integument posterior to the internal hamstring tendon, from which the ball was easily removed by a small incision through the skin.

Examination of the wounds on August 7th shows them cabbed over, no suppuration seemed to have taken place along course of muscle.

August 8th. This morning, at 5 A. M., got up and went to water closet. Noticed that his "thigh was stiff on walking." Suddenly felt something give way in the lower portion of his thigh, and at the same time experienced very sharp pain at the site of Hunter's canal. Noticed very soon that the thigh was becoming enlarged and more and more painful.

6 A. M. Thigh hard—pulsation distinct, also bruit over Hun-

ter's canal—pulsation distensible. Patient wears an anxious expression, and is suffering from shock.

10 A. M. Pain very severe, pulsation very much more marked. Limbs enveloped in cotton batting and bandaged. Ordered Magendie's solution *Min. x. hypodermically*. Digital compression of the Femoral artery commenced, point for compression being just as the vessel passes over the pubic bone. Pulsation easily controlled.

3½ P. M. Foot cold; circulation very feeble; ordered hot bottles and head of bed elevated. Patient continually calling for water, and complains of intense pain in the leg. Ordered pil. opii gr. j. Temp. 100°, pulse 88, resp. 20. Pulse full and soft.

5 P. M. Two "Motts" tourniquets having been secured, one being applied about Poupart's ligament, and the other at the apex of Scarpa's space, they are tightened alternately; by this means the circulation is easily controlled. Ordered beef tea and light stimulants.

August 9th, 3 A. M. Very wakeful, otherwise doing well. Pulse 90, full and strong. Ordered McMunn's Elixir Opii *Min. xx.*

9 A. M. Temperature 100°, pulse 90, resp. 24.

Compression kept up by means of Mott's tourniquets until 4 P. M. (just thirty hours), when I noticed that with all the pressure that could be brought to bear on the artery, there was a very perceptible wave over the site of aneurism, showing the establishment of collateral circulation.

4:30 P. M. Patient put under the influence of ether (one ounce of brandy having been given). I made an incision about six inches in length over site of Femoral artery, beginning about the junction of the upper and middle third of anterior surface of thigh. Centre of incision resting upon point where track of bullet crossed line of artery. Dissecting down and turning out clots, the vessels were found and sheath opened. A ligature was passed around the artery and tied just as the vessel enters Hunter's canal. About half an inch below this point an opening (oval in form and about two lines in diameter) was found inside of artery. A ligature was then placed around vessel about half an inch below the opening, from which blood was flowing freely. After excising a portion of the vessel between the ligatures, I found that hemorrhage still continued from the lower end. On further examination, a large branch was found, opening just above the lower liga-

ture. This being tied the wound appeared dry. Edges of wound were brought together by silk sutures, reinforced by adhesive straps. Compresses of dry lint were placed on either side of wound and leg enveloped in cotton batting. Operation lasted one hour and twenty minutes, during which time two pounds of sulphuric ether was used. Hot bottles placed around body, legs and feet, and stimulants ordered. Pulse 110—comfortable.

8 P. M. Complains of a great deal of pain in leg. Ordered Elixir opii, *Min.* xxv. Some disposition to vomit.

9:30 P. M. Pulse quick and feeble. Patient restless; great thirst; vomits everything.

11 P. M. Vomiting still continues. Gave hypodermics of alcohol (*Min.* xxx) every ten or fifteen minutes, under which the pulse came up well.

12 P. M. Ordered enemas of beef tea and brandy. Complains of a great deal of pain from knee down to toes, especially along crest of tibia. On examination the foot and leg found cold; no pulsation in anterior or posterior tibials. Ordered hot bottles and head of bed elevated; also Magendie, *Min.* xii.

Aug 10th, 1 to 3 A. M. Patient rested quietly. No pain; foot and leg still cool; injections of beef tea and brandy continued. Pulse 126—compressible.

5 A. M. Patient asleep. Pulse 120; better in character; leg and foot feel warm. Treatment continued.

9 A. M. Temperature 101; pulse 124; respiration 22. General condition better; takes nourishment by the mouth.

12 M. Regurgitates food; enemas renewed and continued at intervals of 30 minutes.

8 P. M. Temperature 101½; pulse 138; resp. 24. Quiet; no pain; foot warm; sensation not returned. Takes food now by the mouth; no vomiting.

August 11th, 7 A. M. Spent a very good night. Pulse 110, full and strong. Circulation in foot good.

7:30. Vomited greenish matter; profuse sweating; hands becoming cold; pulse 160, and hardly perceptible. Temp. 99½; resp. 24 and very superficial. Ordered stimulants, sinapisms and hot bottles, but all to no purpose.

POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION.—Heart very much dilated. A firm clot, occupying almost the entire calibre of the pulmonary artery and extending to its secondary branches.

Lungs---Very deeply congested.

Liver-- Small---nutmeg.

Spleen---Small, firm.

Kidneys---Arrangement good.

Examination of the vessels showed that the veins had not been interfered with in any way by the ligatures, but along the course of the femoral, in several places, a calcareous deposit could be seen in the coats of vein.

The question would arise in reviewing this case: Why the aneurism did not show itself sooner? We notice a lapse of seven days before a single unpleasant symptom was developed. In reply, these explanations can be offered: First, that the ball cutting the sheath of, and passing near or grazing the coats of the vessel, so as to kill them at this point, a slough followed; or, second, that the vessel coats being cut through by the ball, a clot of blood plugged the opening, and, on the morning of the 8th, while exerting himself by walking, this was dislodged.

As to the cause of the clot in the pulmonary artery: One of the veins which open into the femoral having been wounded during the operation, or its circulation interfered with during the compression, became plugged by a thrombus, which, after extending into the femoral, was torn away by the stream of blood and lodged in the pulmonary artery; or the atheroma of the pulmonary artery and calcareous deposits in the veins, gave rise to a thrombus or an embolus; or the combination of the latter cause with the dilated heart, rendering the circulation very feeble.

A Case of Complicated Labor.

By A. C. CHRISTY, M. D., Sedalia, Mo.

On the 6th day of April, 1874, about 6:30, P. M., I was summoned to see Mrs. B. —, and found her in labor, at term, with fourth child. On entering the sick chamber I learned, from the midwife in attendance, that she had been in active labor from an early hour in the morning, and that the liquor amnii, had been evacuated soon after labor commenced.

Seeing that she was suffering with violent pains, of an expulsive character, I immediately made a digital examination and discovered, to my surprise, the following curiously complicated form of presentation: The right hand of the child protruded between the labia, and by tracing the arm, I found the right shoulder also,

and with it the vertex and right foot, wedged down and fully engaged at the superior strait. The vertex was directed to the right acetabulum, the right foot towards the left ilio-sacral symphysis, and the right shoulder lay between the vertex and foot. The pelvis seemed to be well formed and large.

Having made this diagnosis, and feeling the weight of responsibility resting on me, in view of the nature of the complication, and the further fact that the liquor amnii had escaped at an early hour in the morning, I concluded to have counsel before attempting delivery, and called in my friend, Dr. Mayfield, who promptly responded. The Dr. made an examination, and verified my diagnosis of the case. The woman was in good condition for operative procedure, being cheerful, with temperature, skin, pulse, and respiration normal.

Our first attempt was to return the foot. After repeated efforts by both of us I succeeded at length in doing so. We next endeavored to return the arm, and after many failures, relieving each other by turn, I with much difficulty, replaced the hand and arm. Dr. Mayfield now manipulated the vertex, and thought it was descending somewhat, after which, on relieving him, I found labor progressing favorably, and in a few minutes I delivered her of a living, healthy female child, of medium size.

The mother made a speedy recovery, and the child also did well.

Addresses Delivered at the Fifth Annual Commencement of the Kansas City College of Physicians and Surgeons.

ADDRESS OF J. V. C. KARNES, A. M.

In the whole range of human learning, no department presents so strange a history as that pertaining to medicine, considered as the art and science of curing disease. Standing as we do to-day in the full light of our advanced civilization, it is difficult to believe that according to the ordinarily accepted chronology, for nearly four thousand years after the creation of the race, amid all the wisdom and philosophy of Oriental learning, no single individual had ever made any rational examination and investigation of man's own physical organization. All along the line of ancient history, both sacred and profane, until within a period of five or six centuries before the birth of Christ, we find that it was the accepted theory that all diseases were but the manifestations

of the wrath of some offended deity, whose anger was to be appeased by sacrifices and religious ceremonies. During that long period, we read in their architecture, their poetry, and their philosophy, that a grand progress was making in human development. Two of the great empires of antiquity had risen in their splendor, shedding their light to the utmost boundaries of the then known world. Moses had written; David had sung; Solomon had taught; Babylon and Nineveh, in all their grandeur, had been built; Egypt had raised her lofty pyramids; great armies had been marshalled, and a thriving commerce had grown up. The nomadic tendencies of an early civilization were disappearing; schools had been opened and libraries established; governments had been founded and many wise laws had been enacted. Their philosophers had taught of the creation, and in the yearnings of the soul for immortality they had peopled all nature with their divinities; and still, with all this, of themselves and of whatever pertained to their own physical well-being, they were as ignorant as the Bedouin of the desert. Like the other animals, they were conscious of the pangs of hunger and of the gratification of the appetites; but of the process of digestion or of the existence of the circulation, of the functions of the heart or of the lungs, or of the relation between the pulse and the condition of the system, or of the connection between mind and matter, or of a delicate nervous organism susceptible to every outward influence—of all these they had no conception. Though their gory victims lay festering upon a thousand battle-fields, or in the arenas of their cruel games, not a dissection had been made; and with no regard for the living, the bodies of the dead were as inviolate as the sanctuary of the temple. Hence anatomy remained a sealed book. Their *materia medica* consisted of the vain babblings of the priests, and the oracles of the gods was their *pharmacopœia*. They sought to alleviate the pangs of disease, and to quench the fires of consuming fevers, by charms and incantations, and when pestilence stalked abroad, reaping a rich harvest in their crowded cities, they erected their temples to Apollo, built their altars and laid upon them their votive offerings.

Such was the strangely incongruous development characteristic of the earlier civilization, and hence when the science of medicine began to emerge from this darkness of religious superstition, so slow was its progress, and its early history so shades off into the misty uncertainty of heathen mythology, it is difficult to

ascertain when man began to realize that human agencies could be devised for the alleviation of human suffering.

The first physicians of whom we have any record were Chiron, said to be a son of Saturn and brother of Jupiter, and his pupil, the famed Æsculapius, dignified as the god of medicine, having a miraculous birth, and finally destroyed by the thunders of Olympus at the urgent request of Pluto, whose dominion he was depopulating by his success in healing all manner of diseases. One was the physician to the Argonautic expedition, both contemporary with Achilles, and undoubtedly belong to the same class of mythological heroes. From this fabulous period until the time of Pythagoras no patient was ever treated other than in the temples of Æsculapius, which were the public hospitals, presided over by the priests, who administered such relief as was then known.

Pythagoras, in the wide range of his philosophic teachings, had some pupils who even dared to explore the comparatively unknown regions of man's own nature; but it was not until the time of Hippocrates, in the fourth century before Christ, that these investigations had assumed any definite form. He seemed to be the focal point converging all the pale light shining out from the many centuries preceding, and even the results obtained in his day were purely pathological, as chemistry and anatomy, the broad avenues leading to the very citadel of medical learning, were still fortified by a religious bigotry which successfully resisted every assault.

The eastern horizon was already tinged with the rising of a Christian civilization. This was five hundred years after Homer had written his great epics, and more than a hundred years after Solon had enunciated those great principles of natural law and justice which have entered largely into every system of jurisprudence to the present day. Herodotus was then laying the foundations for all subsequent authentic history, and on the plains of Salamis, Thermopylæ and Marathon was displayed a military skill and prowess which has been the wonder of succeeding ages. Still, with such progress in arms, science, law, philosophy and poetry, they were just awakening to a realization of the fact that they stood in the very centre of a broad field of learning, and that their own self-preservation demanded that it be explored and cultivated. The tablets in the temple where each sufferer had recorded the disease under which he labored, and the means by which he had recovered, constituted the medical libraries of that age. There were scattered fragments of medical science diffused among

the people, some of which had been drifted down in the family traditions, others necessarily discovered in such a period of mental activity. Reasoning by analogy from an inspection of other forms of animal life, the anatomy of the human body was conjectured. From these sources Hippocrates drew his information, and to these he added, of course, the result of his own observation and intense labor.

Practically speaking, this is the beginning of this stream of knowledge whose cooling waters have given health and vigor to the nations of the earth. Hippocrates took the first step in that long inquiry, yet undetermined, to ascertain what is life. He recognized the existence of a motive power propelling this wonderful machinery called the human body, and he conceived it to be the duty of the physician to open or close the valves by which this power was applied. Such philosophic research entitles him to be ranked as the father of rational medicine.

But in the whole firmament of Greek civilization, Hippocrates is the single star in the medical constellation. In that age, made luminous by the virtues of Socrates, the philosophy of Plato, and the eloquence of Demosthenes, the economy of organic life was almost wholly disregarded. The sentiment of the age resisted its progress, and so great were the obstacles that it sought more congenial influences under the liberal policy of the Ptolemies.

The first medical college known in history was at Alexandria in Egypt, in the third century before the Christian era, and here was the first authorization of anatomical study from human subjects. The great library contained all the writings of Hippocrates, and also all the chemical knowledge then extant. The several chairs were filled by men like Herophilus and Erasistratus, who were devoted to their beneficent work.

Until the time of Galen, a period of near five centuries, these facilities were continued and the college drew to it students from all parts of the civilized world. But during all this period, elsewhere the cloud of superstition had never been lifted, and so persistent was this fanaticism, and so universally had it permeated the public mind, that for that long epoch it is said that outside of Alexandria there were only a few physicians possessed of sufficient courage to venture upon any anatomical examinations. They feared to invade any deserted tenement lest they should encounter some monster ready to avenge the trespass.

But the history and progress of medicine under Roman dominion was even stranger than among the other nations of antiquity. It is a historical truth that for six hundred years Rome absolutely had not a physician in her entire borders. During this time the monarchy had lived and died, the republic had been established; Hannibal had been overthrown, Carthage destroyed, and modern civilization firmly planted upon European shores; Greece and Macedonia had yielded to the conquering march of Roman arms. They held the Mediterranean from the Dardanelles to the Pillars of Hercules, and the Roman eagle was everywhere the symbol of victory and conquest. But not only were they great in arms; the same earnestness and vigor they had carried into the pursuits of peace, and their intellectual conquests were equally as wonderful. But even under such favorable auspices, every department of science, and especially medicine, suffered the like neglect of an earlier period. The superstitious religious observances for the treatment of diseases were practiced in Rome as late as the first century before Christ. Aesclepiades, the friend of Cicero, is the first physician of Rome of whom we have any account, and he was only an amateur, and contributed far more to rhetoric than to medicine. In fact, until the time of Celsus, Rome had made no contributions of any value to medical science. And this was the Augustan Age! Save Parthia, she had conquered the world, and had furnished a civilization ornamented with such lives as Sallust and Livy, Virgil and Horace, Cæsar and Cicero, and all that illustrious family of scholars, jurists, poets, orators and statesmen, who, it seemed, had congregated in that age, as if in obedience to some Divine purpose.

This anomalous condition of mental growth never materially changed, and we might say that throughout Roman civilization no perceptible progress was ever made in the science of medicine. A new school sprang up, and a fierce war was waged between dogmatism and empiricism, but their experimental investigations never advanced the science, for the reason that the whole process was based upon false theories concerning the ultimate properties of matter, and their knowledge of anatomy was necessarily circumscribed, because even the early Christians shrank from dissection with the same timidity as their heathen predecessors. The pursuit of alchemy had not yet opened up the chemical discoveries which have so blest the world, and hence they had no *materia medica* as now understood. And when the sun of ancient civilization went

down in that night of barbarism which succeeded the fall of the western empire, the wisdom and beauty of nature in all of her departments lay almost unexplored !

To the careful student of history, the reason for all this is apparent. The ancient mind was pantheistic. They approached all nature with reverence, and it was not until modern thought had been emancipated from this thralldom of superstition that the scientist even dared to lay his iconoclastic hands upon these hideous idols which had so long desecrated the temples of learning. The ancients worshiped nature, and in the spirit of much of the false theology of the present day, they regarded it blasphemous to inquire into her mysteries. Even the metaphysical Greek, with his piercing analysis, had never conceived of the indestructible atom underlying all science.

The philosophy of antiquity was not directed toward the ascertainment of facts, and from them deducing the great laws governing the mutations and combinations of matter, but nature was accepted in its integrity, and the entire intellectual force was spent in developing a theory for its existence.

And there was not a single physical phenomenon but what was accounted for on a theory consistent with this deification of nature. Under such mental conditions, of course the doors of science were barred, and from this servitude, this religious vassalage, no branch of scientific inquiry suffered such restraint as that pertaining to medicine. Even when the light of the Christian religion had dissipated all these false and pernicious theories, the emergence of the race from a thralldom so long continued was exceedingly slow. The human mind by nature is conservative, and its own inertia holds it to the traditions of the past. Even as late as the thirteenth century, when Mordini, a professor in the University of Bologna, made dissection of two female bodies, he dared not open the cranium, as that was supposed to be the abode of the soul, and would visit dire vengeance upon any rude invader.

But with the rise of our Christian civilization, a new era has dawned upon the world. All modern philosophy is intensely analytical. We no longer speculate concerning the God of the Universe: He has been revealed to us and we realize that every atom of matter is the subject of his inflexible government, and to ascertain and enunciate this beautiful and harmonious system of laws is considered not only a legitimate subject of inquiry, but has claimed and is claiming the attention of the best thought of

modern society. Under such auspices, now, for more than a thousand years, has nature been unfolding her mysteries, and this analysis has been continued until the speculative mind has even ventured the assertion that it can be carried on indefinitely, and that element after element may be evolved, like the lines of the parabola, constantly approaching, but never reaching that end where the creative will, only, would remain. Without trenching upon any such field of transcendentalism, we mention this merely to show the radicalism of modern science. At every step she has so fortified her position with indisputable facts that all preconceived theories and speculations can offer no resistance. All creeds and philosophies must submit to her crucial tests. No theological dogmas can arrest her progress. Despite all ecclesiastical fulminations, the world moves. The orbit of the human mind is constantly enlarging, receiving a constantly accelerated force from the recorded wisdom of the past, and only its own creator can predict the end of its flight.

In contradistinction to ancient civilization, this is pre-eminently the age of scientific investigation. Searching for the varied applications of the single law of the universe, the will of the creative mind, and realizing that all apparent antagonisms are but the result of our limited knowledge, the genius of modern learning, like some imprisoned eagle, has shaken from her wings the dust of ignorance and superstition, and has mounted the skies, sweeping the very verge of the domain of knowledge; and the genius of religion has greeted her with a hearty welcome, proclaiming that in goodness and mercy hath He made them all. Under such inspiring influences, the soldiers of truth are everywhere pushing their conquests, and as a result, the sphere of our mental vision has been more extended in the last five hundred years than in the entire prior history of the race.

Without adverting to the progress made in other branches of science, we are all witnesses that medicine, with all its cognate studies, has fully kept pace in this grand triumphal march. Every avenue has been opened and all nature has been rendered subservient. In the name of humanity, the physician is demanding admission into every department of learning. In the long contest with prejudice and superstition, he has finally triumphed, and the only feeling of reverence with which he is now inspired is the consciousness that he is seeking to acquaint himself with the masterpiece of God's handiwork—that he is placed in charge of

the very machinery of life. To such a work let him bring the broadest culture and the most intense devotion. Let him feel that a new temple has been erected, dedicated to Truth, and that he must bring to its altars the offerings of patient industry and fidelity, that he must ornament it with a pure life, and an honorable manhood.

ADDRESS OF THE REV. G. C. BETTS, A. M.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen :

Although disposed at first to question the propriety of requesting a *Clergyman* to address a general audience at the Annual Commencement of a Medical College, I begin now, on a re-examination of the presumable causes, to discover some reasons why it is not altogether inappropriate.

Accustomed as we of the clergy are to cover up from the too curious gaze of the public so many of the subjects of the most earnest efforts of the medical fraternity, it would not have surprised me had a few words (strictly in private, however) been expected on an occasion when *Alma Mater*, pregnant with genius, gives birth to eight full grown Physicians.

But since it has become fashionable to unveil our sorrows to the world, and indeed, as an event such as this could not, in the nature of things, long remain shrouded in secrecy, perhaps it is just as well to put a bold face on the matter. Under these circumstances, possibly few persons, other than a clergyman, could with more grace say a few words by way of consolation to the community, on what must be to all of us, and especially to the graduates, a very serious occasion—in fact, viewing the end from the beginning, I might say, an occasion fraught with *grave* consequences.

For myself, I am free to confess that I hesitate to accept the generally received opinion that an object such as has called us together to-night is an entirely *unmixed evil*. On the contrary, by way of allaying any alarm which timid and prejudiced people may have in view of the rapid increase of the votaries of this particular branch of science, I am disposed to examine briefly the history of the origin, and of one or two of the more famous of the professors, of what some poet has facetiously called the "*healing art*."

In entering upon a discussion of this nature, it ought to be

borne in mind that we shall have to go back of the period when letters were invented. We must enter an age rich with a knowledge that now seems denied to us.

It must always be a source of regret to the teachers of any science, that characters were invented by which puny intellects imagined themselves equal to the task of unravelling the profoundest mysteries—at all events of blundering at their solution without fear of being devoured for their presumption. *Faith*, that most necessary virtue appears to have lost its vocation, and every tyro to-day, who can repeat the alphabet, will measure arms with the most enigmatical thinker.

But in the glorious time I speak of, symbols, and hieroglyphics veiled from the vulgar gaze the arcana of the sciences, and only displayed to the master mind the hidden stores of knowledge that rewarded the patient seeker after truth.

It is a foul slander, which I here take occasion to repel with all the scorn it deserves, that the practitioners of the present day perpetuate that ancient glory of barbaric times—hieroglyphic writing—in preparing their prescriptions. Whatever be the difficulties in the way of deciphering these cabalistic productions, it must be agreed that it is not meet the profane eye of the untutored multitude should scan too closely the characters, which even the Gods, reverencing them as they did, dared not fully to comprehend. But to return : It will be remembered that the insignia of the Physician in all ages, has been a Rod or Tau-cross, surmounted by a circle, and upon which two serpents are entwined. It would be rather a hasty conclusion to affirm that this significant device was merely a fancy borrowed from the Caduceus of Mercury, which indeed it resembles. After careful consideration I am rather of the opinion that Mercury, who, if all accounts of him be correct, was not above appropriating to himself the goods of others, stole this emblem from the physicians. That he had some connection with it I have no doubt, but that their and his relation to it, was in any wise due to the fact that one of the chief duties of the volatile god was to conduct the souls of the departed who crossed the mournful river in Charon's bark to the presence of the deities below, is exceedingly flippant and unworthy serious attention.

Indeed, it would be scarcely worth our while to notice the many crude and untrustworthy speculations that weak and misguided people have harbored touching this mysterious symbol.

For instance: What can be thought of an ignorance so dense as that which led some people to believe that the serpent was selected as the emblem of the Physician because it was early declared to be the enemy of the human race; and indeed to have been the chosen form in which the Prince of Evil habited himself when he would take advantage of our poor mortal nature! Nor can I see so much force as some pretend, in the passages which have been so triumphantly quoted to substantiate this unlicensed interpretation. I am ready to acknowledge whatever of value may attach to the statement that "the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field;" but surely *subtlety* is one of the virtues that should inhere in every good physician, for his own sake, if not for that of his patients.

Nor will I be moved to any injustice from the fact that whatever of *wisdom* was anciently said to belong to the serpent, has now passed from the Medical to the Clerical profession. For we all know that in early times the two offices were united in one person—the Priest. Medicine then was a religious science (that was in the primitive and pure age, however). Of course it was only natural that when the darkness of a worldly pride fell upon the earth, and the separation of these functions took place, the heathen physician assuming the one part of the symbol (the serpent) for himself, leaving only the *rod* for the clergyman, an equitable division of the attributes of the symbol should likewise be made. The clergyman, as ministering to the higher wants of man, retained the—the *wisdom* and the *grace* of the serpent, leaving its marvellous *vivacity*, its *changeableness* and its *undulating sinuosities*, with all other of its rather peculiar powers to the Physician who had seized upon the outer form for himself.

However plausible these and other arguments may be, and I admit that they have some cogency, I am rather inclined to think that there is another construction of which the device is susceptible.

The name *Serpent* is a translation, I believe, of the word *Nachash*, which, according to the learned Buxtorf, has three meanings expressive of the traits of the reptile.

First: "To view or observe attentively." Now this is eminently true of the physician. Who does not know with what a concentrated earnestness he bends his visual organs, occasionally assisted by binocular appliances, upon the patient, reading in his

languid frame, as easily as the gifted clairvoyant, the malady that seeks his life.

Secondly: "To use enchantments." This is no less true. Anciently, magic and sorcery were a necessary part of *Materia Medica*, and although a vulgar superstition has interdicted the *open* use of this valuable aid, yet we are all familiar with those awful Latin words which no doubt are used as incantations recited with a view to exorcise the evil spirit of disease, which otherwise will not out of the man; or, it may be, that the Physician at such times, murmurs to himself those verses of the Koran which the devout leech of the Mussulmans steeps in milk and hangs about the neck of the patient. Be this as it may, no one will deny that there is a fascination, a sort of mesmeric attraction, a basilisk kind of thing that is perfectly enchanting about the genuine, and especially about the young physician.

Thirdly: "To inspect the entrails of beasts and to watch the passing clouds." Here, the merest tyro will discover in this definition of the word "serpent," a favorite office of the medical man. This evidently denotes the common work of the dissector—the much loved dalliance with the knife, the needle, and the saw. How more tenderly than ever serpent gloated over his helpless victim, does the ardent surgeon coo in fond lover talk to his knife, as gently patting it he promises it dainty morsels by and by. It may indeed puzzle one to explain the "cloud-gazing," but whither should a puzzled doctor look for aid, if not to those benignant regions where the familiar spirits of the air hold court.

But, satisfactory as all this may be, it is not altogether conclusive; I think we must look elsewhere for better help. There is another word which signifies *serpent*, and I think in it is to be found the true solution of the enigma of our symbol. *Heve* or *Heva*, means *the life* and also *the serpent*. From it comes the name of our common mother Eve. In fact the name of the Supreme Deity himself is derived from it. From this the Latins have their "*Ævum*" (life), and their "*Ave*," a wish of good health. It is therefore proper that we should inquire how that which is the destroyer of life came to be considered, also, the giver of life or promoter of health.

Things contradictory of each other are not necessarily antagonistic. Now this seeming paradox might be easily accounted for on the principle of a certain medical school whose celebrated motto reads, "*Similia Similibus Curantur*," but this

we cannot allow in a controversy involving such tremendous issues. Besides it is a far-fetched idea and could not hope to obtain in a "regular school." We must evidently look elsewhere.

May it not be regarded as a species of retributive justice that physicians should carry about with them an image of that creature, which at so early a day, even in Eden, played so important a part in the history of our race? For there I learn that he both offered life and destroyed it. To this lamentable event, in its relation to science, I believe we are indebted for these lines, which some reckless poet sings:

"A man in many a town we know
 Professing openly with death to wrestle,
 Enters the field against the grimly foe,
 Armed with a mortar and a pestle.
 Yet some affirm no enemies they are,
 But meet just like prize-fighters at a fair,
 Who first shake hands before they box,
 Then give each other plaguey knocks
 With all the love and kindness of a brother.
 So many a suffering patient saith,
 For though the Apothecary fights with death
 They're sworn friends to one another."

So now, having paved the way let us get at the real origin of this mysterious design.

In the famous land of the Nile where sign writing had its best interpreters, there was a powerful deity named *Horus*, whom the Greeks afterwards called *Apollo*. He was the emblem of the sun. (At that time, remote from modern thought, strange as it may sound to us, the sun was really believed to be the source of light, heat, and life-giving power). Wherever his rays were darted there the evil genius of darkness and death was driven away, and all things became fruitful. Forced by his beams, the living serpent of disease rose, in the form of noxious vapors from the banks of the sacred stream, obscuring in anger the face of the sun-god. This vapor, or serpent, was the bold god Typhon, who aimed at the life of the great Osiris. Now Horus was a very learned deity and rather enjoyed being the patron of the various arts and sciences. He was a musician, and in fact something of a doctor too. He knew that this terrible serpent was only a lesser god—the shadow of himself warmed into exuberant life from the muddy banks of the Nile after the retiring of the inundation. And as this inundation was the greatest possible blessing to the Egyptians and bespoke plenty, why Typhon ought to have been welcomed as the symbol of life as well as of death. Said he:

"The universe is balanced by two forces. There must be an alternation ; to be sure Typhon obscures the God of light, but then the God of light disperses Typhon. Life springs from death ; light come out of darkness ; the evil is the shadow of the good." But the Egyptians were a hard people to manage ; they had a rather summary way of dealing with even refractory gods, and they clamored for the subjugation of Typhon, who in a feverish sort of way was making rather lively times for the physicians.

So Horus, not having sufficient time to attend to the matter himself, handed over his youngest son *Æsculapius* to the family physician for instruction. The young god speedily outdid his tutor, and exceeding his instructions, took his bow and arrows and put Typhon to flight. He related the wonderful achievement to his father, who instead of praising him and commending him to the Priests for reward, actually took the credit to himself, shook all his trembling locks amain, and smiting his heaving bosom said, so history reports, while mortals trembled :

"I am Horus, the son of Isis and Osiris, before whom Typhon the malignant serpent of the northern pole flees aghast, and sinks in the dark western ocean, what time as Aldebaran leads the starry armies of heaven up the sky's eastern slope, and the dogs of Orion climb upward while the foul scorpion shudders on the world's western edge."

To this intemperate speech we of this world are indebted for our knowledge of medicine. For it was scarcely to be credited that *Æsculapius* would brook the double insult of being shorn of his honors and of being called hard names besides. (For you must know the word *Æsculapius* means man-dog, in reference to his duty of warning the Egyptians as to the time of the inundation). So abandoning the courts above, he devoted himself in terrible revenge to the task of teaching mortals how to rival the very gods themselves in the destruction of death. And so having created a good deal of disturbance above, he caused such a mutiny below that he secured a divorce between the offices of theology and medicine, and adopted the quaint device whose mystery is now unravelled. The Tau-cross was the Egyptian measure that marked the rising of the waters of the Nile, surmounted by a circle to intimate the eternal watchfulness of Providence, and entwined with serpents partly to show the life-giving property of water, and partly the subjugation of the diseases which serpent-

like infested its stagnant retreats. Ingenious Ancients! ye were worthy to live in the Nineteenth Century!

But to all this, ladies and gentlemen, there is still another side. Whatever of fiction or of fancy may attach to the sign, there can be no question as to the fact that we are indebted to celestial influences for our medical knowledge.

When that mysterious change befell our race, when, through the wiles of the serpent, we were robbed at once of health of body and of peace of mind, no prouder mission could be given to man than that he should exercise even tainted talents in elevating his kind to something of the glory and beauty which it once enjoyed.

The connection which exists between the soul and the body so delicately woven together, is so intimate that it places the work of him who ministers to the diseased casket, side by side with his, who would restore, so far as it is given to man to do, the immortal soul to its original loveliness. They are both divine. For though the poor body shall sometime, in spite of every defense, yield to the touch of time and fall beneath the breath of disease, it bears like every product of God the germ of a new life within it.

And he who watches over our infancy, who stands between us and the plague, who careless of himself braves heat and cold, dangers and pestilences to assuage pain and give to our frail natures those helps which patient toil has discovered, who by day and by night, with a ceaseless vigilance, and an anxiety that the little wealth of earth can never buy, watches by our restless sick, and with a man's bravery and a woman's tenderness, anticipates our wants and interprets the very words our palsied tongues can no longer frame—who, knowing that for our enfeebled age and tottering helplessness, there can be no rest or refuge save in the quiet of the narrow house, yet fans the feeble spark and revives the waning pulse, giving to clinging love one other last glance, one other parting sigh, and then, when all is over, gently and tenderly closes the staring eyes, and folds the pulseless hands,—he who does these, is worthier far than any god of Egypt, Greece or Rome, to be sung by grateful bard and blessed in every land!

Thus, the symbol has its best interpretation. Raised in the wilderness, and higher and more grandly still on Calvary, in token of a love that did sacrifice self for the rescue of the race, its arms shall remind the physician of the measure of those duties which

he has assumed : to be ready with all faithful diligence to step into the turbid waters of disease, and to grapple with the serpent that seeks our life, regardless of himself—conscious that above him is the circle of an eternal vigilance that watches over his life, winged with swift pinions to bring fair health to those to whom he ministers, and to himself, let us hope, the well-earned happiness of a merited success.

OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter from Dr. C. B. Chapman, late of Emporia, Kansas.

JERUSALEM, PALESTINE, December 30, 1874.

Editor Kansas City Medical Journal:

I cannot well undertake to indulge in the furnishing of many medical items as a result of my observations since the last was sent you, which I have the impression was mailed before I left London, the first of September. I did not remain long enough in Paris to renew old associations of twenty-three years ago. Most of the men of that time have passed away, and I reserved the renewal of acquaintance with those who remain, until I may reach there on my return.

Leaving Paris by a morning train we reached Bale the same evening, where I spent one day in the observation of its museums and educational places, and then to Zurich, where I remained five days. The University of Zurich is one in which the Swiss people are entitled to indulge a laudable pride. It was also an interesting incident to observe the lines of little children of the Kindergarten schools, leisurely passing along the streets, in charge of their attentive teachers. Visiting the post office, I had my first and only view, in Europe or the East, of private boxes like our own, and I learned that these boxes were imported from the United States.

My next point for a short delay was at, and in the vicinity of, the Pheffer Baths, in the canton of St. Gallen, Switzerland. I learned that these baths received visitors from all countries, and the register exhibited a considerable number of names from the United States. The springs are situated in a deep gorge of the Alps, where the mountain sides come together or project across at

different heights, and exclude the light of the sun. At the hotel, half a mile below, the mountains rise so steep on either side that the sun does not shine upon the premises until ten o'clock, and it sets about three. The warm spring is in a grotto, perhaps a hundred feet of horizontal depth, and those who go in to drink the water from the spring, find it uncomfortably warm, although it may be cool outside. But few visit the spring except to gratify curiosity, as the water is furnished at the hotel, as well as at the hotel at Ragatz, which is nearly three miles below.

We left Ragatz for Coire by railway, where this mode of travel was exchanged for the ponderous diligence, by which the journey was accomplished over the Splügen to Colico, upon the Lake of Como, and thence through this lake to the little Italian city of that name and thence by railway to Milan. Two days busily employed in this old city furnished a rapid glance at its works of art, curiosities, and antiquities, not neglecting its old Hospital. I was not expecting to find the largest hospital I have anywhere seen, in this old interior city of Italy. The immense dimensions of this Hospital may be accounted for from the fact that the hospital accommodations of the locality are centered in the one place—a custom that we hope will meet with diminished favor, unless they may be situated outside of a dense city, or be furnished with ample grounds. But little can be said with regard to this hospital beyond the fact that its management seems to be under rigid system, as is so necessary in a large establishment.

Our party of nineteen were mostly gathered at Brindisi on the following day, and after unwillingly lingering in this undesirable place, at 12 o'clock that night we took leave for the Greek port of Corfu, and after spending two days here, and one at Syra, we proceeded to Piræus—the port at which we must land on our way to Athens. We arrived at this old classic city on a beautiful Autumnal morning, and remained six days, wandering among its old ruins and mementos of bye-gone centuries.

It would not be practicable to furnish a record of our observations among these scenes without filling sheets of material, and I am aware that such would not be the design of a journal devoted to the furnishing of medical information. I have the impression that a rapid mention of these matters may not be out of place. Athens presents many of the features of a modern city. It would present no other appearance but for the few remaining old structures, and the ruined edifices, with occasional standing columns, that

may be seen in all directions. An old cemetery or Acropolis has been uncovered, with its monuments and tablets standing in their proper places, with the inscriptions well preserved. But a defect in the information which the inscriptions might impart is the entire absence of dates upon them.

The ruined temples and structures upon the Acropolis retain enough of the old forms and inscriptions in marble to reveal the fact that Lord Elgin did not remove enough of them for deposit at the British Museum, to greatly impair the original collection. The old temple of Theseus is the only structure of ancient times that retains its standing walls. This old structure is now a repository for the marble and statuary that are recovered by the excavations that are now being made. The prison of Socrates is an excavation in a rock, some distance outside of the present city, in the base of the Hill of the Muses, upon which is a monument to Philopappus, one of the ancient Roman kings of Syra. The Theatre of Bacchus was at the base of the Acropolis, where some of the old stone seats of the Amphitheater and some marble chairs for the people of the highest rank, still remain, with the names of the owners inscribed upon them. The Stadium was some distance from the present city, between two hills, which come together at the further side. Just enough of this old place, where competitive races were held, remains to indicate the original form of the structure.

The educational institutions of Athens did not escape our observation. There is no place I know of where so large a number of places for instruction are found, in the various grades, in proportion to the whole population. In addition to the Common and Normal schools—which are under the supervision of a National Superintendent—are the Gymnasium and the University. There were three schools managed by foreign teachers, two of which have been suppressed by the Government Superintendent.

We returned to Pyræus and Syra, and thence proceeded on our way to Constantinople. There is less to mention with regard to this old city than might be supposed, beyond that which is novel in the general character of the city.

I here had my first view of Mohammedans engaged in their devotions, which was in the splendid Mosque of St. Sophia. There seems to be about as much method in their movements, while repeatedly prostrating towards the East, as in the common exercises of the military drill. We passed up the Bosphorus to

the entrance of the Black Sea, and while returning, landed at Hissar, in order to visit Robert College. This institution was founded by a citizen of the United States, and a part of its eighteen professors are Americans.

We returned down the Sea of Marmora, and passing the Hellespont were on our way to Smyrna, passing the Island of Patmos, which was seen in the distance by the light of a bright moon. A special railroad train was engaged for Ephesus—distant nearly fifty miles—where we spent a few hours wandering amidst the desolations of that city of ancient renown. There are but few ruins remaining, beyond the massive works of the Old Aqueduct, which once furnished water to Old Ephesus. Thence returned to the steamer at Smyrna, from the deck of which the tomb of Polycarp, the martyr of the first century, was pointed out, upon the hill beneath the Acropolis. A sail of one day to Rhodes, another to Larnika, upon the Island of Cyprus, and another night brought us to anchorage at Beyrout, where there is a college supported jointly by British and American munificence, and connected with which is a medical department, which is respectably patronized by natives. One of the faculty of the Medical College at Beyrout is a son of the venerable Professor Alfred C. Post, of the University of New York, and another is Dr. Van Dyke, who has been a missionary of the American Board in Syria. There seems to be peculiar need for a Medical College here, on account of the almost utter lack of practitioners who are worthy of any confidence. The native practitioners are mostly without education, and like their kind elsewhere, are chiefly concerned with regard to the amount they can obtain from those who must needs employ them. I have learned from the statements of natives who have employed them, that they make the most absurd promises, and the most ridiculous statement with regard to maladies that can well be conceived. I infer that the Turkish Government has come to have but little confidence in their own medical practitioners, as they are rarely seen in attendance upon the soldiers in their army.

From Beyrout we ascended the Lebanon mountain, and then descended to the valley between the Lebanon and the Anti-Lebanon, where we camped the first night. The only remaining forest of the Cedars of Lebanon are beyond the crest of the mountain, where snow is said to be seen at mid-summer. The road was nearly level, but not remarkably smooth, as we passed onward to Baalbek. This old ruined city, with specimens of architecture

among its remains of which we have but a dim history, is truly remarkable. We spent our first Sabbath while on this journey in our camp within the walls of one of its old temples. There are stones in the walls of this ruin which surpass, for dimensions, anything I had before seen. Three of these in the wall, about twenty-five feet from its base, are about sixty-six feet long, and fourteen feet square. It remains a mystery as to what mechanical power was employed to raise the huge blocks to their places. A block ready for use remains in the old quarry, about a mile distant, which is a little longer than either of these.

Our journey from Baalbek to Damascus was mostly over rough mountain paths, which were sometimes so narrow and at such heights as to furnish a severe test for weak nerves. We passed along the banks of the Abana during a part of the day we reached Damascus. It was the waters of the Abana and Parphar of which Naaman, the leper, enquired, when told to wash in the Jordan, "are they not better than all the waters of Israel?" We camped upon the bank of the Abana, just outside the city, and so near the walls of a Mosque, that the calls to devotion from its minaret. were regularly heard while reposing in our tents.

We found Damascus suffering much from the usual malady of the season. which is commonly referred to as Syrian fever; but I was unable to discover that it differed essentially from the Miasmatic and Typho-malarial fevers of our own country. I was left with the impression that many of the cases were much more protracted, on account of the custom, which I think too much prevails here, as well as in some places at home, of preceding the administration of quinine by that of purgatives. The notion seems to be one of the most difficult to get divested of, and I believe it to be one of the most necessary, in order to subserve the best interests of that class of patients. I made the acquaintance of a native practitioner in Damascus, who was a graduate of the University of New York, as well as of Edinburgh. Dr. F. Lefluy was a pupil in the College at Beyrout, from whence he went to New York as a medical student, before the establishment of a Medical Department in the College of Beyrout. He is a native of Sidon, where his mother was a victim of the fury of the Mohammedans during the massacre of 1860.

It did not seem singular that Damascus should suffer from an epidemic influence, for the whole city exhibits the most palpable defects of sanitary precautions that I have ever observed, not ex-

cepting Constantinople, for in addition to the extremely narrow and filthy streets, the falling rains and the light of the blessed sun are shut out by a roof over most of the streets throughout the city.

We passed onward from Damascus along the road on which Paul is said to have been led in after he was smitten with blindness. This statement seems reliable, for it is the only road along which he would be likely to perform this journey, but I have much doubt about any one being now able to point out the spot (as they pretend to do) where he met the Lord in the way, from whom he received his wonderful lesson. We proceeded onward over the slopes of Mount Hermon to Baniyas, or Cesarea Philippi of the New Testament, where we spent our second Sabbath.

One of the sources of the Jordan gushes out from the base of Mount Hermon, upon the border of the ruins of this old city, and furnished water for our camp while we remained here.

We passed the other two sources of the Jordan within two hours after we proceeded on our way on Monday. We had a view of some warlike Arabs at one of the founts, who came out from a clump of bushes, having long spears. While passing over the hills we stopped to lunch at the little village of Alma, when a young sheik came into our camp in order to seek medical advice for his three wives. This furnished an opportunity, unsought, to obtain a view of a Mohammedan's dwelling. In a yard, surrounded by a high wall, was a camel that had just come in, and had lain down in order to be relieved of his burden. The dwelling was of two parts, which were only distinguished by one side being raised about three feet, where the wives were occupying seats spread upon the earth. The lower part was occupied by cows and donkeys. After prescribing as well as I was able with the means at my command, I received quite as much expression of gratitude as has sometimes been my lot from other sources.

The sick of the village flocked to our camp and occupied every moment of our time while we remained. From the incidents occurring here and in other places, I am left with the impression that a medical missionary, who could forsake the comforts of civilized life and work among these people, might be much more useful than any other class of missionary. It is said that the regard these people have for a physician would insure him against

danger, and secure him every comfort that they have at their command, which, it is true, does not imply much.

We camped that night at Tiberias, took a short excursion in a row-boat upon the Sea of Galilee, visited the hot baths in the vicinity, which are referred to by Josephus, and passed onward to Nazareth by way of Cana in Galilee, the next day. A missionary of the English Church, and a medical missionary supported by the Scotch Church, who has a well-furnished hospital, are at Nazareth.

We lingered a short time at Gezreel, camped for a night at Genin, wandered among the ruins of Samaria, and, crossing its mountains, camped for our third Sabbath at Nablous, or the Shechem of Bible times. The mystery that has clustered around the question of the possibility of voices being heard from the opposing heights of Ebal and Gerizim, which were upon either side of our camp, has been cleared by frequent demonstrations of the fact, and was also proved by some of our party. There is something remarkable in both the acoustic and optical phenomena of the hill country of Palestine.

Another week of riding and camping brought us to Jerusalem. Whether I shall find enough of medical interest in this city to justify another letter, of a more professional character, remains to be seen.

SELECTIONS.

The New Antizymotic—Salicylic Acid.

The following is extracted from the foreign correspondence of the *Philadelphia Medical Times* :

Prof. Kolbe has found that the presence of salicylic acid prevents the formation of hydrocyanic acid in an emulsion of sweet and bitter almonds, as also the formation of the characteristic volatile oil which usually results on wetting mustard; also that added to a solution of grape sugar containing yeast, it prevents fermentation, as it does also in beer. In an experiment upon milk, he found in the summer at a temperature of 30° C. (86° F.) that fresh milk to which a 0.04 per cent solution of salicylic acid had been added became sour thirty-six hours later than another specimen to which no acid had been added. Added

in this proportion, the acid imparted no taste to the milk. Urine to which it was added did not decompose.

* * * * *

Neubauer asserts, as the result of an interesting series of experiments performed by him, that we have in salicylic acid a means for controlling fermentation in urine, and a substance which is likely to be of inestimable value in the future.

Dr. Miller, a pharmacist, has compared the antiseptic properties of carbolic and salicylic acid. According to him, one part in 1000 of either will stop fermentation in grape sugar; one part in 2000 of salicylic acid is also effective; while this proportion of carbolic acid has no action whatever. In milk containing 0.04 per cent. carbolic acid, the latter is readily perceptible to the taste. It becomes sour, however, as readily as another specimen to which nothing has been added. Salicylic acid as noticed by Kolbe gives in this proportion no taste to the milk, and at the high temperature of 86° F. retards its souring notably; at lower temperatures its preservative action lasts much longer.

When, however, two specimens of the same urine were exposed to the air, one containing carbolic acid and the other salicylic, he found that a much larger quantity of salicylic acid was needed to prevent putrefaction than of carbolic acid. Salicylic acid in the proportion of one per cent. checks the action of ptyaline upon starch. To produce the same effect, ten per cent. of carbolic acid is needed. So in an experiment upon glycerin he found that while ten per cent. carbolic acid was needed to prevent the formation of sugar, 0.5 per cent. salicylic acid was enough for the purpose. It is worthy of special notice that the same observer found that while 0.2 per cent. carbolic acid does not interfere with the digestive action of pepsin, 0.2 per cent. salicylic acid interferes to such an extent that he concludes that a solution containing 1:1000 destroys three-fourths of the digesting power of an artificial gastric juice. This experiment carried on outside the body does not, apparently, agree with the experience of Prof. Kolbe, who, in order to satisfy himself and others as to the effects of internal administration of the acid, took for several days in succession, in four portions, 0.5 gramme in watery solution 1:1000 without any ill or other consequences whatever.

* * * * *

To pass now to the observations of medical men. In the service of Prof. Thiersch at the hospital in Leipsic, the acid has been found to remove foul odors, and the use of a solution containing one part salicylic acid, three parts phosphate of sodium, and fifty parts water, was found favorable to the healthy growth of granulations.

An operation was performed where salicylic acid took the place of carbolic acid. A spray was used 1:300, and the dressing was composed of charpie filled with crystals of the acid, and moistened with the 1:300 solution, which was afterwards used for

irrigation at the rate of eight drops a minute. The case had a speedy and successful termination. The acid was found in the urine. From these and other experiments it is concluded that, as far as can be seen, salicylic acid has the beneficial effect without the disagreeable smell and poisonous character of carbolic acid. Dr. Fehling reports from the Gynæcological Institute of Prof. Crede, that in their practice they have found it of service used in solutions varying from 1:300 to 1:900 water, and in powder one part mixed with five parts starch, and promises a more complete account in the *Gynæcological Journal*. Dr. W. Wagner, of Friedberg, has tried it during the last six months in all such cases as are generally benefitted by carbolic acid

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No more satisfactory result has been obtained than by Dr. Wagner in fifteen cases of diphtheria, of which more than half were of decided severity, and none really light. In the treatment of these, to children not able to gargle, he gave 0.15 to 0.3 gramme in powder, mixed in water or wine, every second hour, and in addition caused those who were able to make use of a gargle containing 1.5 grammes dissolved in 15 grammes alcohol, and mixed with 150 grammes distilled water. If in this crystals formed, they were readily dissolved by gentle heating.

Of these fifteen cases none died,—a result more favorable than he had expected from the character of the disease at the time, and in all the duration of convalescence was much shortened, being in the mild cases from three to five days, and in the severe at most eight days.

It is to be remarked that Prof. Kolbe advises against the internal administration of the acid in the form of powder, as he has found that it attacks, to a certain extent, the mucous membrane of mouth, œsophagus, and stomach.

Experimentation with this new agent is to a great extent in its infancy even in Europe, and it is to be hoped that some of our chemists will soon place it in the power of our physicians to see for themselves how far what is hoped from it can be realized in practice.

If it be really—and there seems to be no good reason to doubt it—as good an antiseptic as carbolic acid, its freedom from odor and from poisonous properties gives it an incalculable advantage over the latter, which will not be lost even if as a remedy in disease it may not be as Prof. Kolbe seems to expect.

ORIGIN OF THE ROUND GASTRIC ULCER.—In several well marked cases of round ulcer of the stomach, Bottcher (Dorpathen Med. Wochenschrift) found necrosed tissue at the base of the ulcer, in which he discovered elements which resisted the action of glycerine, of acetic acid and of caustic potash, and which he considered to be micrococci. Bottcher thinks that these (parasitic) fungi give origin to the ulcer.—*Allgemeine Wiener Med. Zeitung*.

Two Cases of Post-Partum Hæmorrhage Treated by the Injection of Perchloride of Iron.

BY W. P. SWAIN, F. R. C. S.

From the Obstetrical Journal of Great Britain and Ireland, Jan., 1875.

WITHOUT wishing to fan into a flame the dying embers of controversy on the subject of the injection of perchloride of iron in post-partum hæmorrhage, I desire to put on record the two following cases which have occurred in my practice during the last six months:

CASE I was that of an exceeding fine, handsome lady, a primipara. Her pregnancy had been uninterruptedly good. Labor commenced on the evening of January 21st. The presentation was normal, the pains good, and a fine male child was born about half-past seven on the morning of the 22d. I gave a small quantity of chloroform at the last. Immediately after the delivery of the child, I found a second head presenting, and, as the pains were not very expulsive, I put on the forceps and delivered a second male child in a few minutes. I then removed the placenta, which was single and of enormous size. Considerable hæmorrhage occurred at the moment the placenta was expelled, but the womb contracted firmly, and a binder was put on. Within a few moments, however, I found the uterus largely expanded, and, on pressure a huge clot was expelled. I immediately introduced my left hand into the uterus, making pressure externally with the right, but was unable to produce any uterine contraction. During the whole time there was a constant and excessive flow of blood from the vagina, and the patient became collapsed. I administered brandy, in large quantities, and ergot, and the moment ice could be obtained placed a large lump in the cavity of the womb, and bag of ice on the abdomen. All was, however, of no avail, and my hopes of saving the patient were at zero. In the meantime I had obtained further professional assistance, and, with the concurrence of my father and Mr. Whipple, I injected perchloride of iron into the uterus, in the manner advised by Dr. Barnes. From the moment of the injection all flow of blood ceased, although the uterus remained for some time flaccid. The lady made an excellent recovery, and, with the exception of a little lymphatic tenderness in the right thigh, complained of nothing during her convalescence. I should mention that on the second day, and on every succeeding day for some time, the vagina was thoroughly well syringed out with Condyl's fluid and water.

CASE II.—I was asked by Surgeon-Major Ferguson to see at the Woman's Hospital, on July 9th, a soldier's wife in her third pregnancy. She had a contracted pelvis in its antero-posterior diameter. In her first confinement she remained a hundred and forty-eight hours in labor; in her second, eighty-seven hours. No

instrumental assistance was afforded on either occasion, and the children were still-born. This time she had been in labor sixty hours, and I found the head well down on the pelvis but tightly fixed there. I suggested the application of the forceps, and in a very short time, after the use of considerable traction, the child was born alive but lived only for half an hour. The placenta was removed at once without difficulty, and the uterus contracted for a short time, but in a few moments tremendous hæmorrhage set in, the blood being projected from the vagina on the floor some distance from the bed. I immediately passed my left hand into the uterus, cleared out its contents, and endeavored to secure contraction, whilst cold water was poured on the abdomen from a height, and brandy freely administered. This, however, did not correct the bleeding, although it somewhat lessened in quantity. Feeling that another gush of hæmorrhage might be fatal, I injected the perchloride, all the materials being fortunately at hand. The uterus at once contracted, all hæmorrhage ceased, and I hear from Dr. Ferguson that the woman has made an admirable recovery.

I think I may fairly claim two lives for the perchloride treatment. In the first case, all the usual resources, excepting galvanism, were tried in vain; the lady lay dying before our eyes, and there can be no doubt that any further hæmorrhage must have turned the balance against her. In the second case, so rapid and large was the loss of blood, that nothing short of *immediate* arrest could have saved the patient; and this the perchloride certainly effected.

Splenic Leukæmia.

The January number of the *American Journal of Medical Sciences* contains a very interesting article by Dr. Da Costa, in which he describes two cases of splenic leukæmia that were treated by the hypodermic injection of ergotine. Of these two cases, the first, which terminated fatally, is minutely reported. The more noticeable symptoms in this case were progressive emaciation, an inordinate appetite, a "sallow, unhealthy aspect," anæmia, together with the physical signs of an enormously enlarged spleen. The region of dulness extended from the sixth intercostal space down to the crest of the ilium, and from the median line in front to a line descending from the axilla. On a level with the umbilicus, the dulness extended two inches across the median line to its right. Microscopic examination of the blood showed the leucocytes to be in the ratio of one to two of the red globules. Five grains of ergotine in glycerine and water were injected hypodermically every second day, and subsequently the dose was increased from eight to ten grains. This having been continued for three weeks, the size of the splenic tumor was found to have diminished by one inch in all directions. The general condition did not, however, improve, and as the patient com-

plained of the pain occasioned by the injections, they were discontinued. One quarter of a grain of iodine in twelve minims of glycerine and water was then injected in the same manner, and caused some further reduction in the size of the spleen, though the diminution was less than that which followed the ergotine injections. Still the patient's health did not improve, and finally a local peritonitis appeared upon the right side, which was attended with fever and intense pain, until finally death ensued from exhaustion. On post-mortem examination the spleen was found to measure $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, $6\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth, and 4 inches in thickness. Its weight was 4 lbs. 14 ozs. Under the microscope all its elements appeared hypertrophied. The liver showed doubtful appearance of what is described as "leukæmic swelling."

In the second case the disease was of a less aggravated type. The spleen was much enlarged, giving "a dulness extending from a point in the sixth intercostal space two inches below the nipple, in a line with the anterior margin of the axilla, to a distance somewhat below the ribs; in all, a vertical diameter of six inches." Microscopical examination of the blood showed in two specimens respectively eighteen and twenty white corpuscles, in comparison with twelve and fourteen respectively of normal blood. In this case, as in the former, ergotine was injected hypodermically in the same manner. After eight injections extending over a little more than a fortnight's time, the patient's condition had been decidedly benefited. Percussion over the spleen showed a dulness of only $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches in the vertical diameter, and an examination of the blood found the white corpuscles in nearly normal proportion. The patient was discharged as cured.

Treatment of Pneumonia.

In a recent discussion on this subject in the New York Academy of Medicine, Dr. Alfred Loomis said: "We cannot treat pneumonia or any other disease unless we are familiar with the cause giving rise to its development. In pneumonia we have exciting and predisposing causes, and of all predisposing causes, age is the most important. We rarely see this disease in young children; we see it most frequently between the ages of twenty and forty. The pneumonia we see in young children is bronchial pneumonia.

"We find also that climate has much to do as a predisposing cause of pneumonia. Those climates subject to sudden changes are more favorable to the production of pneumonia than those very high or very low.

"Intemperance and whatever interferes with health has very much to do with the development of pneumonia. My impression is that most cases of pneumonia met with are in persons who were not in good health before: hence I question very much that idiopathic pneumonia is frequently met with. If a man is charged

with alcohol, for instance, and he places himself in a draught when heated, and gets pneumonia, is it an idiopathic pneumonia? It is alcoholic pneumonia. If a man under a malarial influence, as we all are in this city, exposes himself, and has pneumonia, it is not idiopathic pneumonia, it is malarial pneumonia.

"In regard to blood-letting in pneumonia, there are certain circumstances in which it is beneficial, but it would not be beneficial in a man suffering with malaria. We have two indications in the treatment of this disease; first, find its cause, not the exciting cause, but the condition of the system preceding it. If the temperature is 104° , it is our duty to reduce it; if it does not rise above 108° , it is better to let it alone. The subject of cold as a means to reduce temperature has been ventilated; my own experience in regard to it, so far as it goes, is rather unfavorable. You can lower the temperature a degree or two by full doses of quinine, and I usually begin by giving gr. x, when the temperature is 105° . The second object in the treatment of pneumonia is to sustain the heart. So far as my experience goes, patients die from failure of the heart. As an agent to overcome heart-failure, alcohol is the remedy."—*Med. Record*.

Tannin in the Coryza of Adults and Children.

"You are constantly telling us," it is sometimes said, "of the great progress made in former times by medicine, and you have not yet found out, from the time of Hippocrates until now; the means of curing coryza." Those who reproach us in this way forget to add that, not wishing, for the sake of curing a simple "cold in the head," to submit to any of the hygienic measures rationally indicated, they demand in reality a prompt means of cure, even while travelling. Even those who cry up infallible specifics most loudly have never proposed anything more than some palliative, and these, from ammonia to iodine, are always in a liquid form, just the shape which is most difficult and inconvenient to carry about. In general, all these preparations are far from compensating by their utility for the inconvenience of their employment.

For ourselves, who do not intend to change our habits or suspend our business any longer for the sake of a coryza, every time we have been attacked by our enemy we have put the question upon a practical footing, and have endeavored no longer to cause the disease to disappear instantaneously by some sovereign *specific*, but to diminish its principal inconveniences and to render its attacks in some degree tolerable.

Observe how we have attained our object. The first symptoms of coryza are congestion of the mucous membrane of the nasal fossæ, with dull headache, heat in the upper part of the face, sleepiness, dryness of the mouth and throat, more noticeable when swelling of the mucous membrane closes the nasal passages completely, obliging the patient to breathe with his mouth con-

stantly open. Such are the principal tortures of a "cold in the head," and for which relief is most urgently demanded. It is evident that if an energetic contraction of the mucous membrane can be brought about, so that its volume shall be diminished, this desideratum can be attained. In short, when the air finds a free passage through the nasal fossæ, the frontal headache and the lachrymation will disappear, and at the same time the dryness of the mouth, which may then be kept closed.

In addition, the mucous membrane being compressed like a sponge, makes easy the expulsion of those fluid mucosities which cannot be detached under ordinary circumstances without great effort.

We may obtain these results constantly by the use of tannin made into a powder after the following formula:

℞ Tannin., gr. $\frac{3}{4}$;
Pulv. iris,
Pulv. althææ, aa gr. xv;
Tinct. vanillæ, gtt. iv.—M.

To be taken in small pinches three or four times a day, or oftener if necessary.

Coryza, which in the adult merely presents inconveniences easy to support, becomes, on the other hand, a serious matter when it attacks an infant. Here, as all physicians know, the occlusion of the nasal fossæ may directly threaten life, because rendering efforts at suction of the breast impossible. It is necessary to act immediately; and it must be confessed that the means heretofore recommended have proved totally inefficacious. Observe our method of combating the danger.

After having prepared the following ointment,

℞ Tannin, gr. $\frac{3}{4}$;
Axungiæ, ℥i ℥i;
Tinct. vanillæ, gtt. v.—M.

we roll between the thumb and index finger a small square of paper so as to form a not very rigid cylinder, which will yield easily to any lateral movements which may be made by the infant while it is being introduced into the nostrils. Then, after having smeared the exterior with the ointment, it is introduced deeply into each nasal fossa.

In this manner we often bring about one or two very salutary attacks of sneezing, and always the effect just noticed as occurring in the adult, that is to say, free circulation of air in the nasal fossæ following the subsidence of swelling in the mucous membrane. The parents are always struck with the rapidity with which the infant returns to the breast, thanks to the success of this little manœuvre. It is because we are convinced that we have rescued more than one infant from imminent danger that we lay stress upon the process which has demonstrated to us that, in the medical treatment of infancy, it is the trifling appliances which often produce the best effects.—Dr. D., in *Tribune Medicale Phil. Med. Times*.

KANSAS CITY MEDICAL JOURNAL.

E. W. SCHAUFFLER, M. D., EDITOR.

EDITORIAL.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES.

THE STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY holds its annual meeting this year at Jefferson City, beginning on Tuesday, the 20th of April. The Committee of Arrangements consists of Drs. G. B. Winston and W. A. Davison, of Jefferson City, and Dr. J. P. Dimmitt, of Clinton.

The following chairmen of standing committees will be expected to report: Dr. A. W. McAlester, from the *Committee on the Progress of Medicine*; Dr. E. H. Gregory, from the *Committee on the Progress of Surgery*; Dr. T. B. Lester, from the *Committee on Epidemics*; and Dr. J. S. B. Alleyne, from the *Committee on Medical Education*. The following gentlemen have also been appointed to read essays on the subjects indicated: Dr. J. W. Trader, on *Anæsthetics*; Dr. H. N. Spencer, on *The Relations of Diseases of the Middle Ear to Diseases of the Brain*, Dr. G. W. Brome, on *Railroad Surgery*; Dr. G. W. Elliott, on *Fractures of the Femur*; Dr. W. C. Glasgow, on *The Relation of Diseases of the Throat to Pulmonary Phthisis*; Dr. S. S. Todd, on *The Use of Anæsthetics in Labor*; Dr. E. Montgomery, on *Uterine Hemorrhage*; Dr. A. W. McAlester, on *Orthopædic Surgery*; Dr. J. W. Pryor, on *The Relations between Physicians and Druggists*; Dr. D. R. Porter, on *Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis*; Dr. W. S. Edgar, subject to be chosen by himself.

It is very likely that the next meeting of the State Society may be held at some point a good deal further away than Jefferson City, and the physicians in this part of the State should therefore embrace this opportunity to attend.

We have never seen but one man who did not feel himself amply repaid whenever he made the effort and attended one of these larger medical gatherings. Let us, then, dun our debtors, dismiss our patients, and all meet at Jefferson on the 20th!

THE KANSAS CITY DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY held its second quarterly meeting at Kansas City, on Wednesday, March 3d. In the absence of the President, Dr. A. O'Connor, of Pleasant Hill, Vice-President, occupied the chair. A goodly number of gentlemen from the neighboring counties were present. Essays were read by Drs. J. T. Wilson, of Weston, B. F. Records, of Liberty, T. B. Lester and M. A. Bogie, of Kansas City. Some reports of cases, accompanied with pathological specimens, were presented by Dr. E. R. Lewis.

The discussions on the papers and reports made were quite lively and interesting, the greater part of the time being occupied with the questions arising in connection with the essay on Inebriety and that on Scarlatina.

The essayists for the June meeting are Drs. T. R. Thornton, of Lee's Summit, A. H. Shiveley, of Pleasant Hill, F. M. Johnson, of Platte City, J. T. Marsh, of Liberty, and J. D. Griffith, of Kansas City.

COLLEGE COMMENCEMENTS.

THE KANSAS CITY COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.—A large, intelligent and fashionable audience filled Long's Hall on the evening of March 2d, at the Commencement exercises of this College. The graduating class numbered eight. The valedictory to the class was delivered by Prof. E. W. Schaufler; able and scholarly addresses were also made by Mr. J. V. C. Karnes, one of the leading lawyers of the city, and the Rev. G. C. Betts, Rector of St. Luke's Church. Both the addresses are published in the present number of the JOURNAL, and will, we know, prove a rare treat to our readers.

The Holden Prize (\$100) was awarded to Dr. A. T. Holt, of Waldron, Mo., and the Faculty Prize to Dr. G. M. G. Beard, of Linwood, Kas.

THE MISSOURI MEDICAL COLLEGE, of St. Louis, held its 34th annual Commencement at the Temple, on the evening of March 4th. The graduating class numbered sixty-one. The valedictory to the class was delivered by Prof. G. W. Hall. After the graduating exercises a meeting of the Alumni Association was called, of which Dr. E. Montgomery was elected President, and Dr. George Homan, Secretary. The night wound up with an elegant banquet at the Lindell Hotel, where about 150 guests were seated. Among

the numerous responses to toasts we observed with pleasure that of Dr. W. S. Edgar, editor of the *St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal*, in behalf of the medical press.

PHYSICIANS' POCKET CASE-RECORD and Prescription Blank Book, with Visiting List.—We have received from the Case Record Company, of Cincinnati, a specimen of their Pocket Case-Record Book, &c., as well as the same thing in larger form for office use. We have often had occasion to regret not having taken and preserved a record of our cases from day to day. Every physician who does keep a record of his cases becomes thereby a better practitioner.

It would be difficult to describe, at the same time briefly and intelligible, the form adopted in this pocket book to combine a visiting list, record of cases and book of prescription blanks, all in one easily-portable book. Suffice it to say, it is done, successfully, and furnishes just such an aid as the busy practitioner requires to keep track of his cases, and to preserve a record of the lessons they teach. We are using our copy and would advise our friends to send 40 cents to the Case-Record Company, 224 Laurel Street, Cincinnati, O., for a sample.

REVIEWS.

CYCLOPÆDIA OF THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE. Edited by Dr. H. von ZIEMSSSEN. Vol. II. *Acute Infectious Diseases*. By Prof. Thomas, of Leipzig; Dr. Curschmann, of Berlin; Dr. Zuelzer, of Berlin; Prof. Hertz, of Amsterdam; and Prof. Von Ziemssen, of Munich. Translated by Drs. James C. White and Edward Wigglesworth, Jr., of Boston; Edward W. Schauffler, of Kansas City; A. B. Hall, J. H. Emerson, George H. Fox, Edward Frankel, and John C. Jay, Jr., of New York. ALBERT H. BUCK, Editor American Edition. two pp 756. New York. Wm. Wood & Co., 1875.

The issue of the second volume of Ziemssen's Cyclopædia, now before us, has been somewhat delayed. The publishers, however, promise that the 3d vol., on Chronic Infectious Diseases, as Syphilis and the like, shall positively appear in May.

The second volume comprises papers on Varicella, Measles, Rubeola and Scarlet Fever, by Prof. Thomas; on Small Pox, by Dr. Curschmann; on Erysipelas, Dengue, Miliary Fever, Influenza and Hay Fever, by Dr. Zuelzer; on Malarial Diseases, by Prof. Hertz; and on Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, by Prof. von Ziemssen.

Such of these papers as we have studied bear the same evidences of ability and thoroughness that characterized the contents of the first volume. It will perhaps interest the physicians in this part of the State just now, to know that 167 pages are devoted to

a most able dissertation on the subject of Scarlatina, from which some valuable ideas may be obtained.

The article which will probably prove of most value to Western and Southern practitioners, is that of Prof. Hertz, on Malarial Diseases. It is pre-eminently practical, and quite exhaustive. Amongst all the works on the practice of medicine which we have ever seen, no one has treated the subject of malarial diseases with any degree of fulness; and we have no hesitation in asserting that no graduate of an Eastern Medical College ever went West or South, who did not have to learn how to recognize and treat malarial diseases after he got there.

Prof. Hertz has spent a lifetime in Holland studying this very subject, and gives us, in addition, the benefit of his extensive research in the literature of the subject. The writer of this notice acknowledges that he has learned more about malarial diseases from this article than from all the means previously at his command, and what he has thus learned has already been worth to him, in money received, the price of an entire set of Ziemssen's *Cyclopædia*. The sections on Masked Fevers, Pernicious Fevers, and Remittent and Continued Fevers are especially valuable,—teaching us how to recognize those obscure and anomalous forms of malarial infection which are most likely to mislead us.

The article on Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis is from the pen of Prof. Von Ziemssen himself. He confesses that we are still in entire ignorance of the original source of this affection; asserts positively that "the Meningitis is an infectious disease," and that, in spite of certain resemblances, it has no connection with typhous or malarial diseases. Under the head of treatment the following declaration is italicised: "Morphine may be regarded as one of the most indispensable remedies in the treatment of epidemic Meningitis."

In conclusion we have only to urge those of our readers who have not yet done so, to subscribe at once for the *Cyclopædia*.

It is not intended to issue more than four volumes a year; the subscription price being \$5, payable on delivery. An agent soliciting subscriptions is now traveling through this part of the State. Physicians living in towns that are not visited may send their subscriptions direct to the publishers, Messrs. Wm. Wood & Co., 27 Great Jones St., New York.

COMPENDIUM OF CHILDREN'S DISEASES. A HANDBOOK FOR PRACTITIONERS AND STUDENTS. By Dr. JOHANN STEINER, Professor of the Diseases of Children in the University of Prague. Translated from the 2d German edition by LAWSON TAIT F. R. C. S., etc. 8vo, pp 405. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1875.

The fact that Dr. Steiner's book has been so well received by the profession in Germany as to call for a second edition, and that it is deemed worthy of translation by so competent a judge as Mr. Lawson Tait, goes far to recommend it. The title of "Compendium" is perhaps justified by the wide range of subjects treated of, and the brevity with which many of them are dismissed. There

are certainly very few, if any, of the medical diseases of children that are not considered in this volume.

The first 110 pages are devoted to diseases of the Nervous System, and seem to constitute the most valuable portion of the book. Those paragraphs devoted to the pathological anatomy and the diagnosis of the diseases under consideration are most excellent; the "clinical portraits" (if we may use the term) are not so good, and under the head of treatment, but little will be found that is new. The diseases of the respiratory organs are not handled with the degree of ability that characterizes some other works on this subject. Maladies affecting the digestive apparatus are more satisfactorily treated of, while a good deal that is valuable may be learned about affections of the genito-urinary organs and the skin.

It is decidedly aggravating to find all measures of weight or length given only in grammes, centimetres, etc., and no doubt this very circumstance will injure the popularity of the work. Altogether, Steiner's Compendium is good but not brilliant, and should only be purchased by those who can afford to have a good many works on children's diseases in their libraries.

DENTAL PATHOLOGY AND SURGERY. By S. JAMES A. SALTER, M.B., F. R. S. Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and Examiner in Dental Surgery at the College: Dental Surgeon to Guy's Hospital. 8vo, pp —. Wm. Wood & Co., New York.

Dentistry has always been meagerly supplied with comprehensive works on the Pathology of the teeth and associate parts, and Dr. Salter's book goes far toward supplying that want. He certainly merits a reward of thanks from the profession at large, and deserves the most substantial encouragement of a general purchase of his first edition by the dentists of America. Any meritorious work upon dental science must look to the profession in the United States for a just appreciation.

Dr. Salter's exalted position as Examiner in Dental Surgery at the Royal College of Surgeons, and Dental Surgeon to Guy's Hospital has probably afforded him facilities, such as no other individual living or dead has enjoyed, for prosecuting the study of Dental Pathology. The thousands of the poorer class of people of the giant city of London have been his material for observation.

Dr. Salter has the boldness to upset some antiquated theories in regard to the existence of nerve fibrils in dental tubuli, and of the insensibility of dentine being its normal condition.

The general failing of English writers on the divisions of Dentistry has been to spin the thread a little too fine, to split the hair once or twice too often, having a tendency to render some points intangible, and in this respect Dr. Salter seems to be no exception.

There is no work extant so complete as this one on the subjects of which it treats. The type is neat, large and easy to read. The book contains one hundred and thirty-three illustrations, that

have evidently been selected with great care, from interesting subjects, and have been finely executed.

It is a book that every dentist should buy and read, and it would be a valuable aid to physicians practicing in rural districts where they are often compelled to render dental services to their patients.

J. E. C.

TREATMENT OF GLANDULAR SWELLINGS OF THE NECK BY THE INJECTION OF ACETIC ACID.—At the Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, Golden Square, London, Dr. Morell Mackenzie is now treating enlarged and indolent glands about the neck, especially in adults, with injections of the dilute acetic acid of the British Pharmacopœia. Seven minims is the quantity injected at the first time, and ten minims or more may be used if several injections are necessary. They are made with an ordinary hypodermic syringe. One of two results may follow the injection. Either the gland suppurates, and the pus is discharged as in an ordinary abscess, or else it disappears gradually by interstitial absorption, without any suppuration whatever. It is impossible to know beforehand whether suppuration will occur. In some cases one injection will excite suppuration, in others several are required. It is stated that by this means, those unsightly lumps, which formerly were treated for months by iodine paint and internal remedies with indifferent success, can now be removed in a few weeks with only trifling annoyance to the patient, and, at the most, with only a slight scar.—*Irish Hosp. Gaz.-Med. Record.*

BOOKS RECEIVED.

CYCLOPÆDIA OF THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE. Edited by PROF. VON ZIMMERMAN. Vol. II, *Acute Infectious Diseases*. A. H. Buck, M. D. Editor American Edition. New York: Wm. Wood & Co., 1875.

ON FUNCTIONAL DERANGEMENTS OF THE LIVER. By CHAS. MURCHISON, M. D., L. L. D., F. R. S., etc. New York: Wm. Wood & Co., 1875.

SYPHILITIC LESIONS OF THE OSSEOUS SYSTEM IN INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN. By R. W. TAYLOR, M. D., Surgeon to the N. Y. Dispensary. New York: Wm. Wood & Co., 1875.

DENTAL PATHOLOGY AND SURGERY By S. J. A. SALTER, M. B., F. R. S. New York: Wm. Wood & Co., 1875.

A PRACTICAL TREATISE ON THE MEDICAL AND SURGICAL USES OF ELECTRICITY. By GEO. M. BEARD, A. M., M. D., and A. D. ROCKWELL, A. M., M. D. Second Edition. New York: Wm. Wood & Co., 1875.

LECTURES ON DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY ORGANS, HEART AND KIDNEYS. By ALFRED LOOMIS, M. D., etc. New York: Wm. Wood & Co., 1875.

COMPENDIUM OF CHILDREN'S DISEASES. A Handbook for Practitioners and Students. By DR. JOHANN STRINER. Translated by LAWSON TAIT, F. R. C. S., London. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1875.

THE HISTOLOGY AND HISTOCHEMISTRY OF MAN. A Treatise on the Elements of Composition and Structure of the Human Body. By HEINRICH FREY, Zurich. Translated from the 4th German Edition by A. E. J. BARKER, of Dublin. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1875.

Any of the above works can be obtained from MESSRS. MATT. FOSTER & CO., General and Medical Booksellers, Kansas City, Mo

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Santonine, the active principle of *Senecio contra*, (European Wormseed,) occupies the first rank among the anthelmintic remedies. In this preparation the Santonine is combined with a purgative agent under the form of a sugar coated pill, and thus forms a pleasant and efficacious remedy, which has been used for many years. Each dragee contains one half grain of santonine and one fifth grain of gambogine.

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A most useful, convenient, and desirable preparation, always ready for immediate use. Clean, prompt in its action, and keeps unaltered in any climate; easily transported and pliable, so as to be applied to all parts and surfaces of the body. It is prepared of two strengths:—No. 1, of pure mustard; No. 2, of half mustard. Each kind put up separately, in boxes of 10 plasters.

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(Island Moss, Lactucarium, Ipecac, and Tolu.)

Used with great success against nervous and convulsive coughs, hooping cough, acute bronchitis, chronic catarrh, influenza, &c.

Wakefulness, cough and other sufferings in consumption, are greatly relieved by the soothing and expectorant properties of this paste.

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This Elixir contains Iodine, Pyrophosphate of Iron, the active principles of anti-scorbutic and aromatic plants, and acts as a *tonic, stimulant, emmenagogue*, and a *powerful regenerator of the blood*. It is an invaluable remedy for all constitutional disorders due to the impurity and poverty of the blood. One of the advantages of this new preparation consists in combining the virtues of Iodine and Iron without the inky taste of Iodide of Iron.

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This preparation is the same as the preceding, but contains in addition eight grains of pyrophosphate and ammonio-citrate of iron, per ounce. Dose, a dessert to a tablespoonful three times a day. This will be found one of the very best of tonics.

Fougera's Nutritive Syrup of Iron.

Each ounce of this syrup contains sixteen grains of pyrophosphate and ammonio-citrate of iron, and the soluble constituents of two ounces of fresh beef. Dose, for adults, a dessert spoonful; for children, a teaspoonful. It is especially adapted for ladies and children.

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CAUTION.—Fougera's Nutritive Preparations are the only remedies which contain the Liebig's Extract of Meat, and were the first introduced in this country. All others claiming to be similar, but not containing this, **THE ONLY RELIABLE** extract of meat, must be considered as inferior. Physicians, in order to obtain the desired results, will do well to specify **FOUGERA'S Nutritive Preparations**, when desirous of using **Extract of Meat** in combination.

THE PREVALENCE OF DIPHTHERIA—REPORTS ON ITS SYMPTOMS—TREATMENT AND PREVENTION.

Use of Bromo-Chloralum.

The *Sanitary Committee* of the City of New York submit the following propositions concerning diphtheria; and we have added, at the request of several medical men, short directions as to the use of Bromo-Chloralum—adapted to the several conditions of use.

Bromo-Chloralum is a bromide and chloride of aluminium, is inodorous, and non-poisonous and has been found agreeable and potent.

A Striking Merit of Bromo-Chloralum is, that it operates by removal and not by creating an odor greater than the one sought to be removed. It can be applied in the most simple manner, diluting it according to the *object or locality* to be purified. Indeed, one great element of its success is the capability of *free diffusion*, causing it to purify the air as well as the walls, ceilings and floors.

Mode of Attack.—Diphtheria is caused by the inoculation of the air passages with the diphtheritic poison, which, from this point infects the whole system; the local inflammation is attended with the formation of membrane (exudation); the fever and general symptoms are the result of this local infection.

Personal Precautions.—It is impossible for any person to tell when they are exposed, it may be in foul horse-cars, the meeting of a person in business or social contact. The only safe course is to carry about the person a small bottle of BROMO-CHLORALUM, diluted one part to fifteen of water, and frequently use it as a mouth wash, swallowing a little, as well as thoroughly cleanse the mouth and throat with it every morning. This will prevent the poisonous impression upon the tissue, from the septic particles or diphtheritic poisons that float imperceptibly in the air.

How it Spreads.—Diphtheria is therefore a contagious disease (not perhaps as marked as scarlet fever), induced by contact with objects and persons infected; it may be diffused by the exhalations of the sick, and the air surrounding them; or directly, by the exudations, as in the act of kissing, coughing, spitting, sneezing; or by the infected articles used, as towels, napkins, handkerchiefs, &c., the poison clings with great tenacity to certain places, rooms, houses, where it may occasion cases after a lapse of months.

To Prevent Spreading, hang large cloths or towels in the apartment, moistened with Bromo-Chloralum, diluted one to ten with water, to decompose all emanations, vapors or gases in the air of the room, and keep a gill of the same strength in chamber utensils and spittoons, also soak all towels, handkerchiefs and other articles used, in a dilution of one part to fifteen of water. Use freely as a wash and gargle.

Symptoms.—In ordinary attacks the poison begins to act the moment it lodges upon the tissues, but, like a vaccination, causes but slight sensible effects in from two to five days; there is marked prostration, dryness of throat, and pricking pain in swallowing; the throat becomes red, and patches of white exudation appear and the glands of the neck swell. In mild cases these symptoms subside on the third or fourth day from the appearance; if more severe, these symptoms may be prolonged; if unfavorable, the fever increases, the local inflammation spreads and exhaustion rapidly follows.

When the first Indications of dryness of the throat appear, gargle thoroughly with Bromo-Chloralum, diluted one to six of water, and even stronger; consult a physician, and if none are at hand, use the Elixir Iodo-Bromide of Calcium Comp. internally, and usual remedies upon the outside of the throat.

The Person.—Diphtheria attacks by preference children between the ages of one and ten years, the greatest mortality being in the second, third and fourth years; children of feeble constitution, and those weakened by previous sickness, and those suffering from catarrh, croup, and other forms of throat affections.

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